

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An articulated device for advancing a medical implant along a catheter, the device comprising a catheter and a plurality of segments arranged one after the other in line within the catheter, each segment being hingeably connected to a single adjacent segment if it is at the end of the line and otherwise to two adjacent segments, wherein each segment is detachable from its adjacent segment(s),

whereby a medical implant mounted at one end of the device can be advanced through the catheter by pushing on the other end of the device, the hinged connections allowing the device to follow a curved path through the catheter,

each segment bearing a male part including a ball and a pair of projections, and a female part including a socket and a slot,

wherein the male part of a segment engages with the female part of an adjacent segment **by engagement of the male part's ball with the female part's socket; by the male part's ball fitting within the female part's socket, with the socket being sized with a diameter greater than that of the ball such that the ball is freely insertable within and removable from the socket without interference**, and by engagement of the male part's pair of projections and the female part's slot.

- 2-4. **(CANCELED)**
5. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the segments are formed from a material which is sufficiently stiff to allow a moment of at least 1 Newton metre to be transmitted through the device.
6. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 1 which includes from 15 to 80 segments.

7. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each segment has a lumen passing through its body along its longitudinal axis, so that the plurality of lumen substantially align to allow a guide wire to pass therethrough when the device is in use.
8. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each segment has a channel in its outer wall so that the plurality of channels substantially align to allow a guide wire to pass therethrough when the device is in use.
9. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length to the widest diameter of each segment is in the range 1:1 to 1:5.
10. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the maximum degree of articulation between the longitudinal axis of one segment and the longitudinal axis of an adjacent segment is at least 15.
11. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 1 in combination with a medical implant mounted on one end of the device.
12. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A device as claimed in claim 11 wherein the medical implant is a vascular graft.
- 13-14. **(CANCELED)**
15. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A method of advancing a medical implant along a catheter comprising providing a device as claimed in claim 1 having an implant mounted on one end of the device, inserting said end of the device into the catheter, and pushing on the other end of the device.

16. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An articulated device for advancing a medical implant along a catheter, the device comprising:
- a. a catheter having a catheter interior passage;
 - b. multiple segments adjacently arrayed in a line within the catheter interior passage, wherein:
 - (1) each segment pivotally abuts any adjacent segments, whereby the line of segments may adopt a curved path within the catheter,
 - (2) each segment bears:
 - (i) a ball thereon, the ball having projections extending therefrom, **and**
 - (ii) **a socket bounded by a wall, the wall having a slot defined therein,** wherein **each projection is engaged to an adjacent segment; at least some of the segments each have:**
 - (A) its ball received within the socket of an adjacent segment, with the socket being sized such that the ball is freely insertable and removable therein without interference, and**
 - (B) its projections received within the slot of the adjacent segment,**
 - (3) the segments are translatable within the passage, whereby the segment at one end of the line can:
 - (i) have a medical implant situated thereon, and
 - (ii) be advanced through at least a major portion of the length of the catheter interior passage to eject the medical implant from a passage exit.
17. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 16 further comprising a passage defined within each segment, wherein the passages are aligned when the segments are arrayed in a line to define a passage extending axially along the arrayed segments.

18. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 17 wherein the passage in each segment is situated on the outer circumference of each segment.
19. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 17 wherein the passage in each segment extends:
- a. through the segment, and
 - b. spaced from the segment's outer circumference.
- 20-21. **(CANCELED)**
22. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 16 wherein each segment is resiliently snap-fit to at least one adjacent segment.
- 23-24. **(CANCELED)**
25. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 16 wherein segments have lengths, as measured along the line, which are less than or equal to their diameters.
26. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 16 wherein segments have diameters of approximately 10 mm or less.
27. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 1 wherein for each segment:
- a. the projections protrude from the ball of the male part, and
 - b. the slot extends along a wall of the socket.
28. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 27 wherein each segment's slot and projections are aligned along the same plane.

29. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The articulated device of claim 16 wherein the catheter is at least partially spaced from the outer surfaces of the segments.
30. **(CANCELED)**
31. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The articulated device of ~~claim 30~~ claim 16 wherein:
- a. each segment has a channel defined on an outer surface of the wall of the socket, and
 - b. the channels of the adjacently arrayed segments are aligned along a common path.
32. **(NEW)** The articulated device of claim 1 wherein:
- a. the female part's slot opens at a mouth, with the slot narrowing at the mouth and widening thereafter, and
 - b. the slot has a width at the mouth which is smaller than the diameters of the projections.
33. **(NEW)** The articulated device of claim 16 wherein each slot having projections received therein has a slot mouth sized to resist passage of the projections.